

## **Summary of 1/03/06 and 1/25/06 CON Task Force Discussion**

### **Areas of Concurrence:**

- 1) A current Washington State Health Policy is needed for “direction” of health care related activities within the state.
- 2) An accountable “party” needs to be named as the “keeper” of a current Washington State Health Policy.
- 3) Consistent and responsive data systems are needed for a current Washington State Health Policy and operation of any related programs, including a CON program/process.
- 4) The CON program/process needs to be structured/operated so as to be supportive to the current Washington State Health Policy. Goals for its operation include:
  - a. stable and accountable structure,
  - b. contribution to the provision/access to quality services,
  - c. utilization of evidence-based data in the decision processes, where applicable,
  - d. development and utilization of criteria, or sub-criteria, related to outcomes with consideration of the IOM Quality Initiative aims,
  - e. monitor the covered facilities/services for compliance, and
  - f. implement consequences for non-compliance.
- 5) An over-arching value statement, that would serve as a foundation for the preamble, purpose and goals of the certificate of need improvement initiative, is needed; this value statement would acknowledge that a balance between market competition, health care planning and health service regulation should provide stability to the current health system. The ongoing efforts of the Task Force and Technical Advisory Committee should be guided by this value statement.

## Areas for Further Discussion:

### A. Values:

*Statement intended as a discussion tool:*

*The provision of health care services should be governed by community standards of access, fairness, and financial commitment as defined by explicit public policy; and professional standards of quality. Competition plays an important role in promoting choice and efficiency within the boundaries of these standards. Public policy in this area should reflect the following consistent values:*

**OR**

*The provision of health care services should be guided by a strategic planning process, taking into consideration the forces of competition and cooperation, bounded by established community and professional standards based on quality, efficiency, effectiveness and the following consistent values:*

- *Do things well: all care provided should meet national standards of evidence-based quality;*
- *Do the right things: all care provided which has a major public interest should meet national standards of evidence-based appropriateness*
- *Do things transparently: information about all aspects of care (including financing) should be available to relevant public agencies and the general public; and*
- *Do things fairly: all providers of health care should contribute their fair share of community activities (directly or by paying others) toward community goals, with both fair share and community goals defined by explicit public policy.*

### B. Purpose:

- 1) Incorporate Additional Recommendation A (as follows) into the purpose section:

A state owner of health care policy and planning needs to be identified. The plan needs to be clearly articulated, with accountability for maintaining a relevant process utilizing specific criteria for the health outcomes of its citizens with the focus on quality, access and cost containment.

*Statement intended as a discussion tool:*

*All residents of the State of Washington shall have reasonable access to quality health care at a reasonable cost as a benefit of a state health care policy and planning process which is clearly articulated and accountable for maintaining a relevant process utilizing specific criteria for optimal health status of which the certificate of need program shall be a key regulatory component.*

**C. Goals:**

- 1) Resource management:
  - a. Optimize access to care and services via the appropriate distribution of facilities and services as defined in Washington State health policy;
  - b. Foster effective resource utilization by:
    - Maximizing the use of specified health care facilities and services which represent the least costly and most appropriate levels of care, and
    - Minimizing the unnecessary duplication of health care facilities and services;

**D. Review Criteria:**

- 1) Update and refine existing four criteria of need, financial feasibility, structure and process of care, and cost containment on an industry specific basis.

***Statement intended as a discussion tool:***

***Develop review criteria, at a minimum, concerning community need, financial feasibility, appropriate service, quality delivery process, and measurable performance related to health status outcomes.***